

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium, comprising:
a non-magnetic substrate including at least one major surface having a contact start/stop (CSS) or landing zone and a data zone, said substrate surface in said CSS or landing zone comprising an embossed pattern of recesses, wherein
said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of rectangularly-shaped or sinusoidally-shaped recesses.

Claim 12 (original): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, wherein:
said substrate is annular disk-shaped, said CSS or landing zone comprises an annularly-shaped zone adjacent an inner or outer diameter of said disk, and said data zone comprises an annularly-shaped zone radially adjacent said CSS or landing zone.

Claim 13 (original): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, wherein:
said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of rectangularly-shaped recesses, wherein each of the dimensions of the rectangles of said pattern is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm and the depth of each of the recesses is in the range of from about 10 to about 200 Å.

Claim 14 (original): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, wherein:
said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of sinusoidally-shaped recesses, wherein the peak-to-peak spacings of adjacent recesses is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm and the depth of each of the recesses is in the range of from 10 to about 200 Å.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, wherein:
said substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of Al, Al/NiP, Al-based alloys, other metals, other metal alloys, polymers, and polymer-based materials, or a high modulus, hard-surfaced substrate selected from the group consisting of glass, ceramics, and glass ceramics ceramic, and glass-ceramic.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 15, wherein:
said substrate comprises glass, ceramic, and glass-ceramic and further includes a glass or glass-like layer on at least said substrate surface in said CSS or landing zone, said glass or glass-like layer being derived from a sol-gel layer and including a surface with said pattern of recesses formed therein.

Claim 17 (original): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, wherein:
said substrate surface in said data zone comprises an embossed servo pattern.

Claim 18 (original): The magnetic recording medium as in claim 11, comprising:
a stack of thin film layers formed over at least said substrate surface in said data zone, said stack of layers including at least one ferromagnetic recording layer.

Claims 19 and 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A disk drive comprising a magnetic recording medium,
wherein the magnetic recording medium comprises:

a non-magnetic substrate including at least one major surface having a contact start/stop (CSS) or landing zone and a data zone, said substrate surface in said CSS or landing zone comprising an embossed pattern of recesses, wherein

said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of rectangularly-shaped or sinusoidally-shaped recesses.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 21, wherein:

said non-magnetic substrate is annular disk-shaped, said CSS or landing zone comprises an annularly-shaped zone adjacent an inner or outer diameter of said disk, and said data zone comprises an annularly-shaped zone radially adjacent said CSS or landing zone.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 21, wherein:

said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of rectangularly-shaped recesses, wherein each of the dimensions of the rectangles of said pattern is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm and the depth of each of the recesses is in the range of from about 10 to about 200 \AA .

Claim 24 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 21, wherein:

said pattern of recesses comprises a plurality of sinusoidally-shaped recesses, wherein the peak-to-peak spacings of adjacent recesses is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm and the depth of each of the recesses is in the range of from 10 to about 200 \AA .

Claim 25 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 21, wherein:

said non-magnetic substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of Al, Al/NiP, Al-based alloys, other metals, other metal alloys, polymers, and polymer-based materials, or a high modulus, hard-surfaced substrate selected from the group consisting of glass, ceramic, and glass-ceramic.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 25, wherein:

said substrate comprises glass, ceramic, and glass-ceramic and further includes a glass or glass-like layer on at least said substrate surface in said CSS or landing zone, said glass or glass-like layer being derived from a sol-gel layer and including a surface with said pattern of recesses formed therein.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The disk drive as in claim 26, wherein:
said substrate surface in said data zone comprises an embossed servo pattern.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The disk as in claim 21, comprising:
a stack of thin film layers formed over at least said non-magnetic substrate surface in said
data zone, said stack of layers including at least one ferromagnetic recording layer.